

Appropriations Committee

February 28, 2023

Public Hearing on **H.B. 6659 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

Hello and thank you to the members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Jayvonne Gatlin and I am from Waterbury Connecticut. I have attended the Independence Center, a program of Mental Health Connecticut since I was 18, and I am 43 now.

The program gives those with mental health disorders tools and avenues for recovery and ways to succeed in life. They were very helpful during the pandemic and called to check in on us often and delivered food to us. Now they are open and I am happy to have a place to go.

I currently work part-time and live independently. I have for quite some time now.

I would like to ask for increased funding over the next few years for non-profit programs that help with mental health issues like the Independence Center. Thank you so much.